

Eisen

October 6, 1959

Dear Herman:

The very important chair in Medicine is vacant at Stanford, and I have found myself appointed to a committee to recommend possible tenants of it. As you know, this (new) school already has a very strong research orientation, and people like Art Kornberg, Henry Kaplan, and I, and many others are keen to strengthen this in every possible way.

I am not at all blind to some of the difficulties which are entailed in maintaining this outlook in the professorship of Medicine; it occurred to me that you might be one of the very few people who would be capable of it. I do not know how my colleagues on the committee would react; you must know that you already have many warm friends here who would welcome your being here in this or any other capacity.

The best way I could think of to collect the kind of information that we should have was to ask you for it. There is, of course, not the remotest commitment on your part and it would be reviewed as from an anonymous source. Would you help me out with a biography, a list of publications, and an outline of your present responsibilities? I would consider this a great personal favor, which could save me a lot of devilous effort.

The one reply you could make, but which I hope you will not, is that you would not be interested in this situation under any imaginable circumstances. If your reaction is anything other than the categorical negative, I hope you will humor me by furnishing the 'dossier' and let us work out what, if anything, we can.

We could leave till later any discussion of the pro's and con's of the job here, though we would welcome any comment on policy or personality you might want to make. I did not want to press this on you with a phone call; you can reach me at any occasion at Davenport 1-1200 Ext. 5052, or at home at DA-6-2891.

We are counting on seeing you at least in January, with the antibody group; hopefully perhaps sooner.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg